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シュウエンノシオリ

漫画：結城あみの（ゆうき）
原作：スズム　全10P：150P
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YOU REALLY ARE HELPLESS, A-YA.

PERFECT CRIME LOVE LETTER CHAPTER

START.

Chapter 6　Perfect Crime Love Letter　Part one

—A MEMORY FROM MY CHILDHOOD—

I WAS ALWAYS WITH A-YA, WHO LIVED NEARBY.
EVEN IF I SAY WE WERE ALWAYS TOGETHER, OUR FAMILIES WERE FRIENDS, SO WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PLAY TOGETHER.
SOMEHOW, I HAD TROUBLE UNDER -STANDING A-YA.
HIS THOUGHTS WERE ALWAYS A MYSTERY TO ME.

I THINK THAT, EVER SINCE HE WAS LITTLE, HE'D NEVER BEEN GOOD AT COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE.
"HE SHOULD SAY IT MORE LIKE THIS."
WHILE THINKING OF HIM LIKE THAT, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GRADUALLY BECOME CURIOUS ABOUT A-YA'S BEHAVIOUR.
"HE SHOULD SMILE A BIT WHEN SAYING THAT."

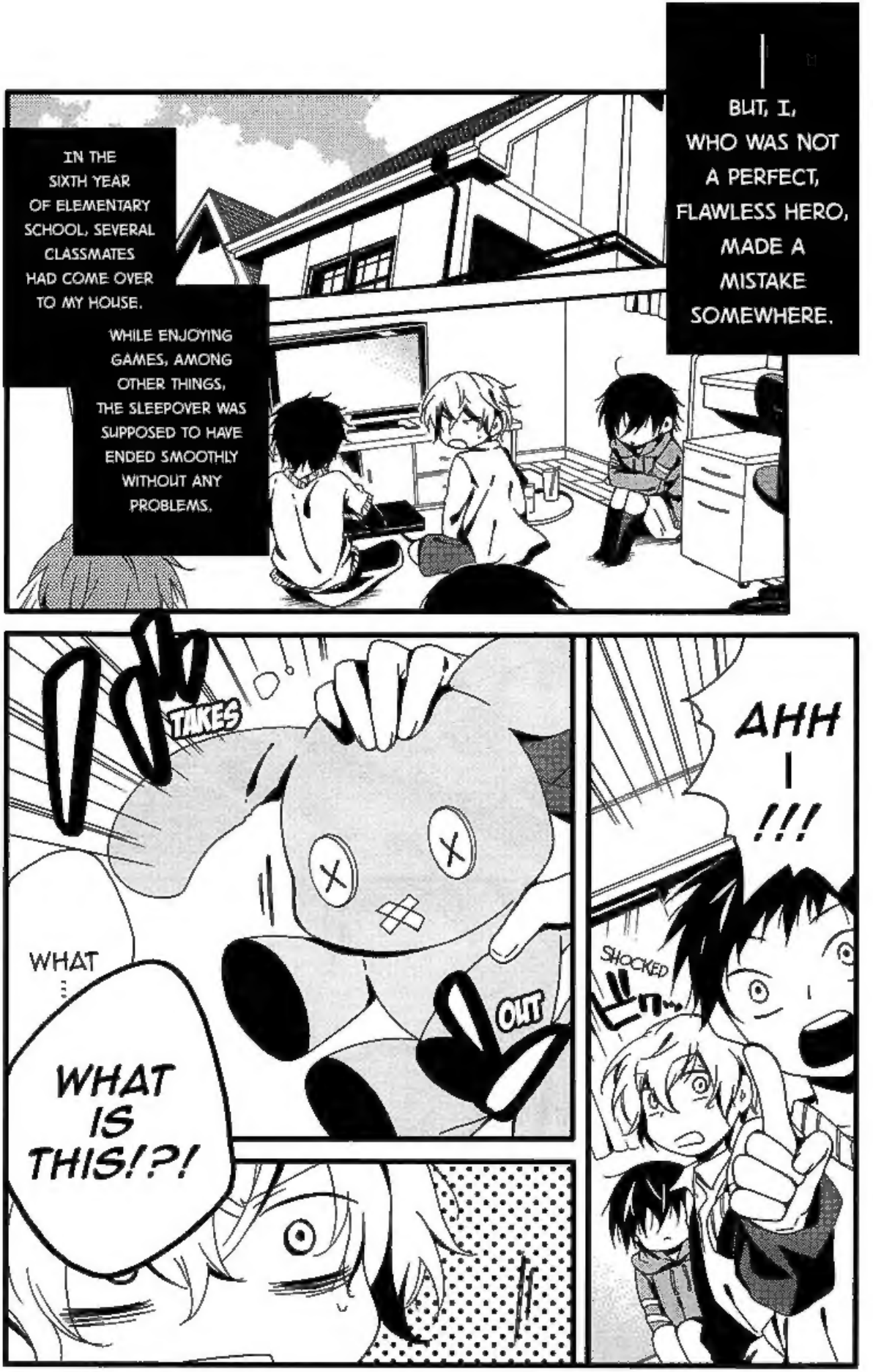
AT FIRST, I REALLY ONLY BEGAN TO FOLLOW UP ON A-YA'S BEHAVIOUR ON A BIT OF A WHIM.

"A-ya's actually really happy!"
AND THE MOMENT I DID, I FELT HIS ENEMIES DISAPPEAR FROM AROUND HIM...
whisper whisper
"A-ya's just embarrassed, that's all."
AS A CHILD, I HAD TAKEN THE LIBERTY TO FEEL LIKE A HERO.

"Without me, A-ya's no good."
YOU REALLY ARE HELPLESS, A-YA.
UP UNTIL THIS POINT, I HAD NEVER THOUGHT THAT FEELING NEEDED BY SOME-ONE WOULD BE SUCH A GOOD FEELING.
"The one who saved my childhood friend from the shadows was me."
THE HELPLESS A-YA, AND I, THE HERO.

T/N: THE KANJI HERE READS CHILDHOOD FRIEND, WHILE THE FURIGANA READS A-YA

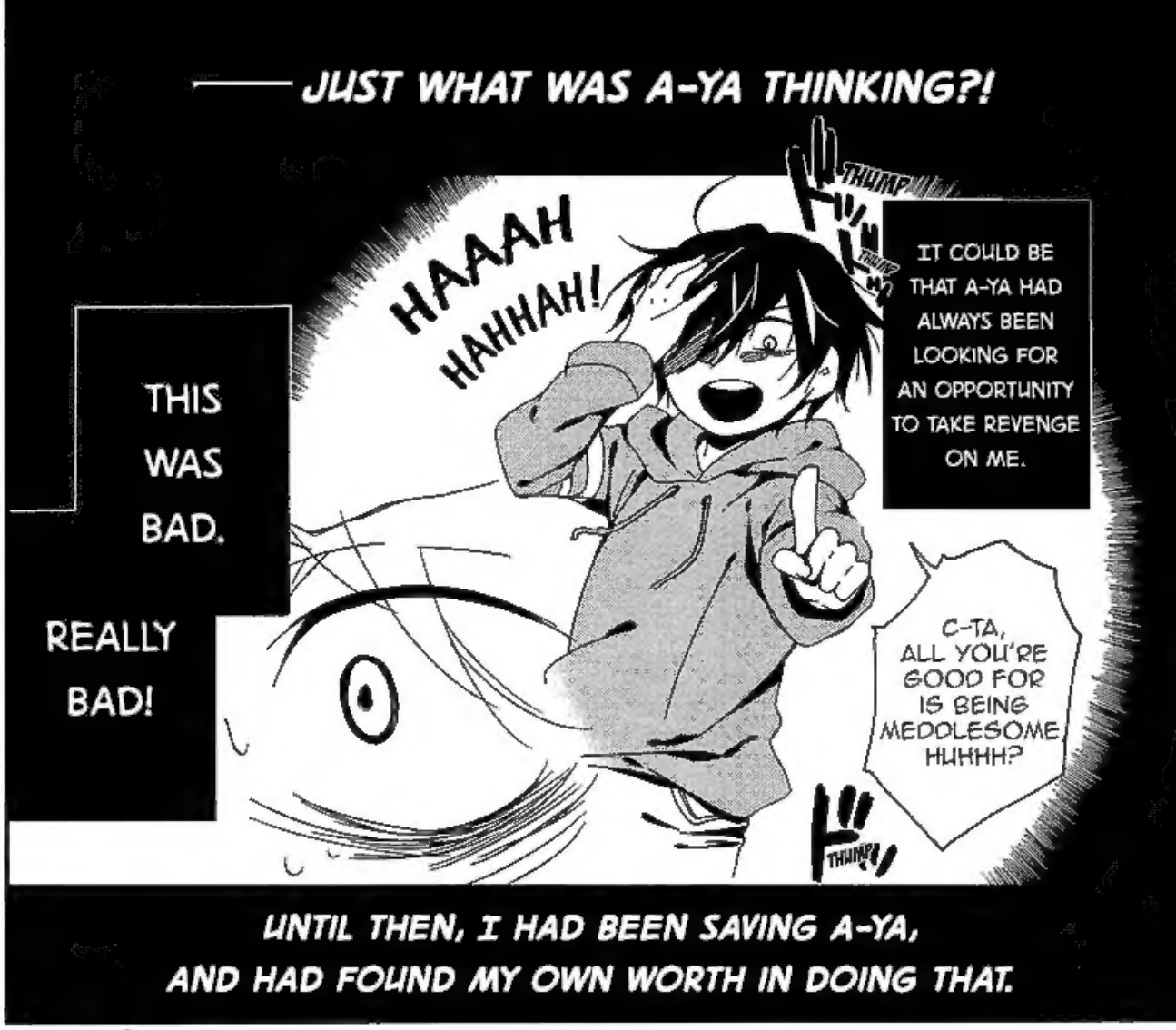
WHOOSH
TO THINK THAT, AS A RESULT OF MY OWN WILL,
GOING THROUGH LIFE WAS SOMETHING THIS SIMPLE.
IT WAS ALL SO EASY.

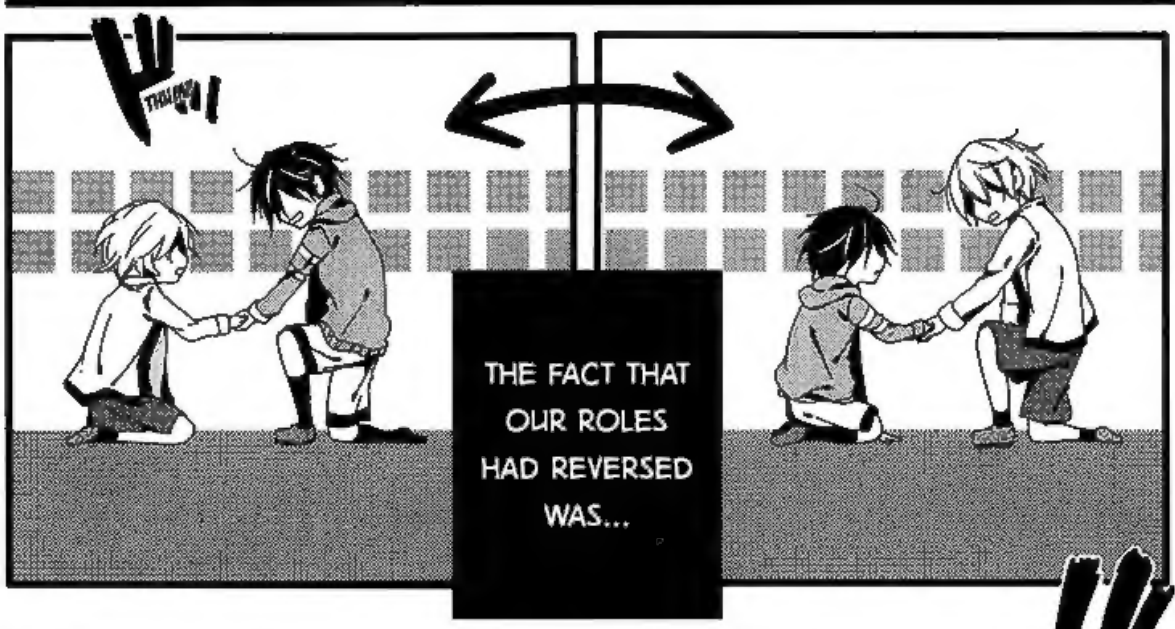

IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SEVERAL CLASSMATES HAD COME OVER TO MY HOUSE.
WHILE ENJOYING GAMES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SLEEPOVER WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ENDED SMOOTHLY WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.
BUT, I, WHO WAS NOT A PERFECT, FLAWLESS HERO, MADE A MISTAKE SOMEWHERE.
TAKES
OUT
WHAT
WHAT IS THIS!?!
AHH—!!!
SHOCKED

SHAKE
UWAH! C-TA, YOU OWNED SOMETHING THIS GIRLY!?
A GIRLY STUFFED DOLL THAT MY PARENTS HAD BOUGHT FOR ME WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.
NNNN
AT THAT AGE, I NO LONGER TALKED TO IT OR HELD IT WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP.
WAHH
Serious!?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SISTERS, SO THIS IS DEFINITELY YOURS, RIGHT?!
TH... THAT'S NOT...
SAY SOMETHING, C-TAAA.
THUMP
THUMP
A MISTAKE!
A MISTAKE!! A MISTAKE OF A LIFETIME!!
THUMP
!!

TURNS
SURPRISED
mutter...
...THAT DOLL, IS MINE, SO...
THAT DOLL... IS MINE, SO... GIVE IT BACK.

!...
THUMP
Fuuu
WHY'S YOUR DOLL AT C-TA'S HOUSE?
...A-YA?
MY HOUSE IS NEARBY, SO... THE LAST TIME I CAME OVER, I FORGOT IT...
STUNNED...
HMMMPH.
HERE.
FLINCH
Ahh, loame
GLANCE


—— JUST WHAT WAS A-YA THINKING?!
THIS WAS BAD.
REALLY BAD!
HAAAH HAHHAH!
THUMP
IT COULD BE THAT A-YA HAD ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE REVENGE ON ME.
C-TA, ALL YOU'RE GOOD FOR IS BEING MEDDLESOME HUHHH?
THUMP
UNTIL THEN, I HAD BEEN SAVING A-YA, AND HAD FOUND MY OWN WORTH IN DOING THAT.


THE FACT THAT OUR ROLES HAD REVERSED WAS...

EXTREMELY BAD!!
THUMP

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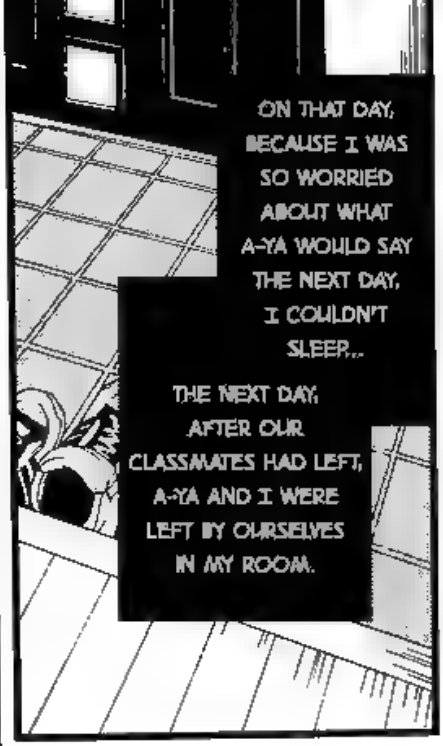
I HAD NEVER THOUGHT OF WHAT A-YA WAS ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT.
...Not saying anything huh.


ON THAT DAY, BECAUSE I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT A-YA WOULD SAY THE NEXT DAY, I COULDN'T SLEEP...
THE NEXT DAY, AFTER OUR CLASSMATES HAD LEFT, A-YA AND I WERE LEFT BY OURSELVES IN MY ROOM.

GRIP...
HEY... JUST WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, COVERING FOR ME...!
SURPRISED
THUMP!
...UM...

...!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

HA... HA HA
THE THINGS I DID! EVERY DAY!
A-YA REALLY APPRECIATED ME AFTER ALL!
THUMP
BECAUSE HE NEVER REALLY SHOWED HIS EMOTIONS, THERE WERE TIMES WHERE I'D THOUGHT HE HADN'T NOTICED!
THERE WERE EVEN TIMES WHEN I WAS AFRAID HE MIGHT FIND ME ANNOYING!
BUT I WAS WRONG!
THUMP
A-YA APPRECIATED ME!
HE NEEDED ME!
AS PROOF OF HIS APPRE -CIATION...
HE COVERED FOR ME!
THUMP
——...NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
BA-BUMP

YESTERDAY'S ACTIONS, WEREN'T FOR MY SAKE.
RATHER, IT WAS FOR HIS OWN SAKE.
IF MY POSITION IN THE CLASS WAS IN DANGER, WHO WOULD HELP HIM THEN?
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA
HAHA
THAT'S RIGHT!
CLENCH
A-YA NEEDED ME TO BE THERE FOR HIM!
FROM NOW ON, TOO, I HAD TO KEEP HELPING A-YA!

...YOU'RE SO HELPLESS, A-YA.
haha
..YEAH. I'M SORRY ABOUT ALWAYS
YEAH..
AH, THAT'S RIGHT ...HERE.
PASS
...I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.
IT'S FINE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

FROM THAT DAY ON, I WORKED EVEN HARDER THAN BEFORE TO HELP A-YA FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.

AS FOR ME, I CONTINUED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY SOCIABILITY, AND ALL THE WHILE, WITHOUT BECOMING TOO CONSPICUOUS, AVOIDED MAKING ANY ENEMIES...
AND CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN AN INTERMEDIATE POSITION IN THE CLASS.
TIME PASSED, AND THE TWO OF US ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL.
DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL, A-YA HAD BECOME OBSESSED WITH URBAN LEGENDS, GHOST STORIES, AND OTHER THINGS THAT COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS THE OCCULT...
AND ON TOP OF THAT, HE TURNED PESSIMISTIC.
"GOING THROUGH LIFE" WAS REALLY NOTHING MORE THAN HAVING A SENSE OF BALANCE.
TO DO EVERYTHING TOO PERFECTLY IS, CONVERSELY, WHAT WILL MAKE PEOPLE BECOME YOUR ENEMY.
ALTHOUGH, IF I WERE TO BE IN AN INFERIOR POSITION BY A CERTAIN AMOUNT, I'D IMMEDIATELY BE LOOKED DOWN UPON BY THOSE IN THE HIGHER RANKS IN THE CLASS.

結城あみの先生へ応援のお手紙を!!!

[宛先] 〒150-0002 渋谷区渋谷3-3-5 NBF渋谷イースト メディアファクトリー 月刊コミックジーン編集部

ジーンコミックス
アンドロマリウス①
幸路
大好評発売中!!

STANDING NEXT TO SUCH A CONSPICUOUS GIRL, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT STRANGE RUMORS WOULD BEGIN POPPING UP.
You really are a strange guy, huh.
EVEN THOUGH I'D LEARNED HOW TO PREVENT A-YA FROM BECOMING TOO CONSPICUOUS... JUST HOW HAD HE COME INTO CONTACT WITH THIS KIND OF PERSON?!
...QUICKLY!!
BUT, CONTRARY TO MY EXPECTATIONS, ANOTHER MEMBER JOINED OUR GROUP IN THE OLD SCHOOL BUILDING...
IF I DON'T GET THIS GIRL AWAY FROM A-YA, THEN...!!
BA-
JUST WHAT I HAD HAPPENED
-BUMP-

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THOUGH WE HAD NO CLEAR PURPOSE, WE SOON BEGAN TO HAVE ACTIVITIES LIKE THOSE OF A CLUB.
AT FIRST, I WAS SURPRISED, BUT AFTER RE-THINKING, I REALIZED I COULD USE IT AS A WAY TO PROTECT A-YA.
AND WAS SOMEHOW ABLE TO KEEP CALM.

I'M BAD AT TALKING WITH GIRLS, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN TALKING WITH B-KO
What'd you say?
Haah...
OH MY.
RATTLE
OH.
HEY, O-NE-CHAN
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
CLATTER

grin
YES, IT'S BECAUSE I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU, C-TA-SAN.

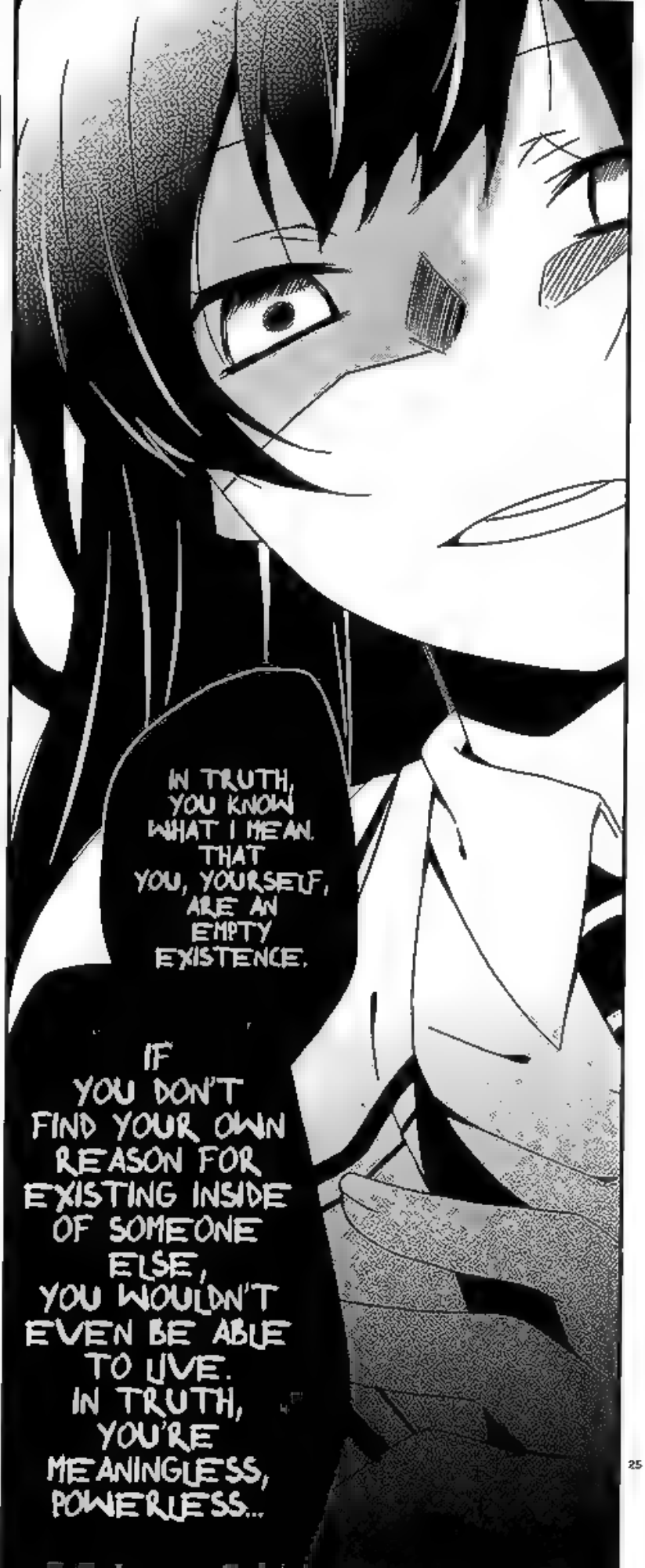
Umm...
SORRY DON'T YOU MEAN WITH B-KO?
OH? OF COURSE I WOULD LOVE TO TALK WITH B-KO-CHAN, BUT
I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SPEAK TOGETHER WITH YOU, C-TA-SAN

D-NE... SHE DIDN'T STAND OUT IN CLASS OR OTHER ACTIVITIES, AND SHE GAVE OFF THE IMPRESSION OF NOT HAVING ANY ESPECIALLY CLOSE FRIENDS.

HM? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT I THINK THAT YOU AND AOYA RESEMBLE EACH OTHER MORE

THUMP...
THAT'S JUST ON THE SURFACE... ISN'T IT?

.....?
SWISH...
...THERE'S SOMEONE WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT.
WHA...


IN TRUTH, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. THAT YOU, YOURSELF, ARE AN EMPTY EXISTENCE.
IF YOU DON'T FIND YOUR OWN REASON FOR EXISTING INSIDE OF SOMEONE ELSE, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO LIVE. IN TRUTH, YOU'RE MEANINGLESS, POWERLESS...

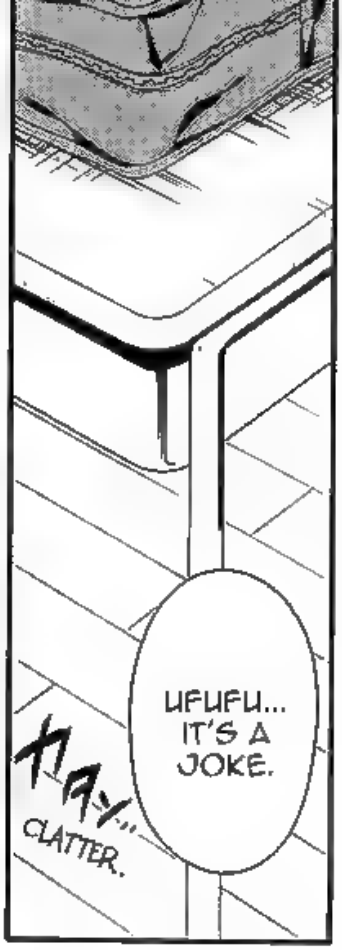
IT'S ONLY BEEN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, BUT

WHEN I LOOK AT YOU, I AM ANNOYED.

THUMP
...
AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE REALIZED IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
IT'S AS IF.. YOU ARE A MIRROR TO ME.
THUMP
IF, ONE DAY, THE OTHER PARTY HAS NO MORE NEED FOR YOU. NO, IT'S POSSIBLE THAT ALREADY, THEY MAY NO LONGER HAVE ANY NEED FOR YOU, IT'S JUST THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO CONFIRM IT
AND YOUR OWN
THUMP

SHUT UP.

I THINK THAT DESPITE THIS, I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH YOU, C-TA-SAN
CONSIDERING THE MUTUAL BENEFITS FOR EACH OTHER,
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND, RIGHT?
Though you may not have the same intention
giggle


UFUFU... IT'S A JOKE.
CLATTER.

SHIVER...
.....THIS PERSON.....

RATTLE
...HUH? C-TA?

shock
AH, O-NE, YOU'RE EARLY WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
B-ko -chan!
ばあ, smiles

turn
RIGHT? C-TA-SAN.
...

UFUFU, I WAS JUST HAVING IDLE CONVERSATION WITH C-TA-SAN
IS THAT SO?
you're too close

FROM THAT DAY ON, I DIDN'T SHOW IT, BUT I GREW INCREASINGLY FRUSTRATED.

D-NE HAD THOUGHT THAT I WAS DEPENDENT ON A-YA.

THAT'S WRONG! TOTALLY WRONG!

A-YA'S THE ONE WHO DEPENDS ON ME.

THAT'S HOW IT IS, RIGHT?

IF I WEREN'T HERE, WHAT WOULD BECOME OF A-YA? WOULD HE BE ALONE IN THE CLASS? WOULD NOTHING CHANGE FROM NOW? IN THE FIRST PLACE, WOULD A-YA BE BOTHERED BY THAT SORT OF THING?

SURELY BE...

WHAT?

I WAS THE ONE WHO SAVED A-YA. IF I DIDN'T HELP HIM, A-YA WOULD SURELY BE....

NO, THAT'S WRONG!!
CLENCH
AT THAT TIME, HE SAID "THANK YOU!" TO ME, DIDN'T HE!?
A-YA SHOULD BE APPRECIATIVE OF ME!!
THAT'S RIGHT, THERE'S NO MISTAKE IN THAT.
C-TA?
TA.
AH

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? ARE YOU SICK?
NAH, I WAS JUST SPACING OUT A LITTLE I'M TOTALLY FINE
AH!
AHH, SORRY.

SNICKER
BY THE WAY, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TODAY?
!
Hnn..
33
TURNS
180°
THAT'S RIGHT...!
THE TRUTH S YESTERDAY I HAPPENED TO FIND A DIARY IN THE OLD BUILDING
AND IT SEEMS TO BE AN IMPORTANT CLUE!
HEY C-TA, YOU KNOW ABOUT THE INEXPLICABLE CHAIN OF MURDERS THAT HAPPENED IN TH S OLD BUILDING RIGHT?
SEE?

HE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANY EXPRESSION, BUT I KNEW THE FACE HE'D MAKE WHENEVER HE WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING.
I'D ALWAYS LISTEN TO HIS STORIES AND EXPRESS MY OWN OPINIONS.
IT'S ONLY IN TIMES LIKE THESE THAT HE'S HIGH STRUNG, HUH
AND THEN, I'D SAY, "THAT'S REALLY COOL, A-YA!"
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THAT SORT OF A-YA WAS THE SAME AS USUAL NOTHING WILL CHANGE.
...REALLY? THAT'S PRETTY COOL!
NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

I ALSO TALKED ABOUT IT WITH B-KO, AND SHE SEEMED REALLY INTERESTED.
RIGHT?
WELL THEN, TODAY, WE'LL ALL INVESTIGATE THAT DIARY TOGETHER
——
WHAT WAS THAT?
.....YOU ALSO TALKED ABOUT IT WITH B-KO?

WHY HAD YOU DONE SUCH A SELFISH THING
WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?

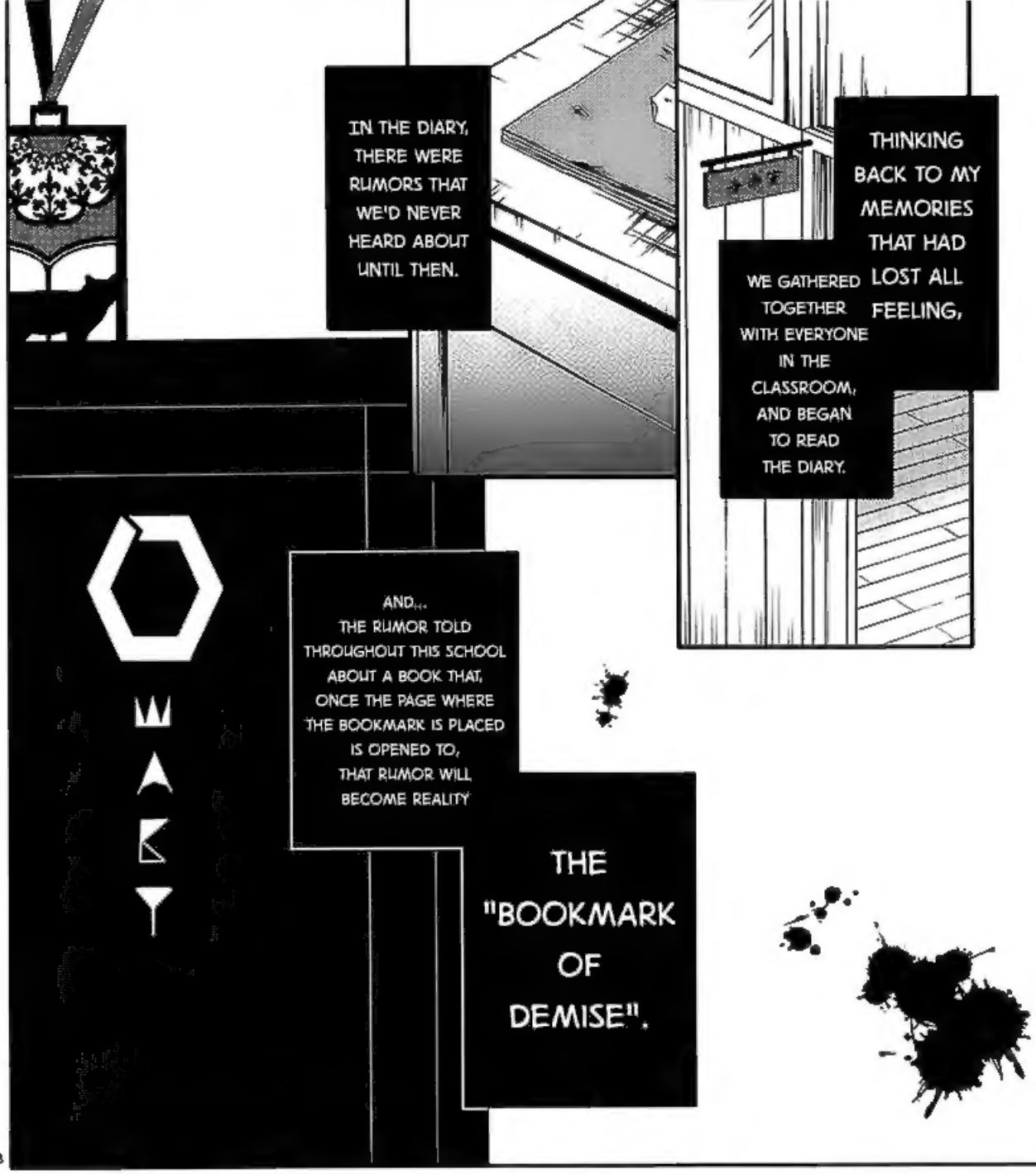
DOESN'T THAT MEAN
I'M UNABLE TO CHECK WITH A-YA
TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SAY THINGS
HE SHOULDN'T?

EVEN MORE SO WHY WITH B-KO?
NO YOU'RE STILL NOT THAT
CLOSE WITH HER RIGHT?

IN THE FIRST PLACE WHY DO I CARE?

...THEN, ISN'T IT JUST LIKE...

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT
THUMP
THERE'S SOMEONE WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT.
EVERYTHING FROM HERE ON OUT WAS AS IF I WAS READING A NOVEL...
IT WAS LIKE I WAS LOOKING OBJECTIVELY AT A WORLD THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.


IN THE DIARY, THERE WERE RUMORS THAT WE'D NEVER HEARD ABOUT UNTIL THEN.
THINKING BACK TO MY MEMORIES THAT HAD LOST ALL FEELING,
WE GATHERED TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE IN THE CLASSROOM, AND BEGAN TO READ THE DIARY.
AND... THE RUMOR TOLD THROUGHOUT THIS SCHOOL ABOUT A BOOK THAT, ONCE THE PAGE WHERE THE BOOKMARK IS PLACED IS OPENED TO, THAT RUMOR WILL BECOME REALITY
THE "BOOKMARK OF DEMISE".

38

WHEN WE SAW THAT, EVERYONE GATHERED THERE BECAME EXCITED.

終焉ノ栞

AFTER THAT, I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER ANYTHING
TICK
TICK
TOCK
...THAT'S WRONG.
SWISH...

WHAT TROUBLES C=TA IS A CHANGE IN A RELATION -SHIP THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN UNWAVERING.....

TO BE CONTINUED

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